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2700-PLUS SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS (K-TOPICS)
Compiled and Arranged Topically by Duane V. Maxey

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KINDNESS -- EXAMPLES OF

1370 -- A HARDENED HEART SOFTENED

A gentleman saw a boy thief in his flower garden. He went forth quietly in a roundabout way to meet the boy and, coming up behind him, laid his hand on the boy's shoulder, saying: "Now, my boy, answer me one question: Which is the best flower in my garden?" The boy, finding no escape, looked around and after a few minutes' pause, said, "That rose is best," as he pointed to a beautiful moss rose. The gentleman, still keeping one hand on the boy's shoulder, reached out his other hand and, plucking the rose in all its beauty, gave it to the boy. As he released him he said, "There, take it, my boy." The boy was amazed. Looking into the face of his strange benefactor, he said, "Ain't you going to have me punished, sir?" "No," was the reply; "but as I am going to give you the best flower in my garden, you will never steal from my flower beds again, will you?" "Never, sir, as long as I live," was the emphatic reply; "but, please, sir, ain't there some little errand I can do for you?"

Free forgiveness and a token of love had won the hardened boy's heart, and from that hour he was the willing servant of his friend. -- Christian Herald London

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KINDNESS -- EXAMPLES OF

1371 -- A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE TOLD BY AN OLD DOCTOR

One day -- a long hot day it had been too -- I met my father on the road to town. "I wish you would take this package to the village for me Jim," he said hesitating. "Now I was a boy of twelve, not fond of work and was just out of the hayfield where I had been at work since day-break. I was tired dusty and hungry. It was two miles into town. I wanted to get my supper and to wash and dress for singing school. My first impulse was to refuse, and to do it harshly, for I was vexed that he should ask after my long days work. If I did refuse he would go himself. He was a gentle, patient old man. But something stopped me, one of God's good angels I think.

"Of course father I'll take it," I said heartily, giving my scythe to one of the men. He gave me the package. "Thank you, Jim," he said, "I was going myself but somehow I don't feel very strong today." He walked with me to the road that turned off to the town. As he left, he put his hand on my arm saying again, "Thank you my son; you've always been a good boy to me, Jim." I hurried into the town and home again. When I came near the house, I saw a crowd of farm hands at the door. One of them came to me, the tears rolling down his face: "Your father," he said, "fell dead just as he reached the house. The last words he spoke were to you."

I'm an old man now, but I have thanked God over and over again in all the years that have passed since that hour that those last words were: "You've always been a good boy to me." --
New York Examiner

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KINDNESS -- EXAMPLES OF

1372 -- HOW THE FINE WAS PAID

Once, when Mr. LaGuardia, the famous ex-mayor of New York, was presiding at a police court, they brought a trembling old man before him, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. He said his family was starving. "Well, I've got to punish you," said Mr. LaGuardia. "The law makes no exception, and I can do nothing but sentence you to a fine of ten dollars." Then he added, after reaching into his pocket, "and here's the ten dollars to pay your fine. Now I remit the fine." Then, tossing the ten-dollar bill into his famous outsize hat, he said, "Furthermore, I'm going to fine everybody in this courtroom fifty cents, for living in a town where a man has to steal bread in order to eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines, and give them to this defendant." The hat was passed, and an incredulous old man, with a light of Heaven in his eyes, left the courtroom with forty-seven dollars and fifty cents. -- Methodist Recorder

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KINDNESS -- EXAMPLES OF

1373 -- KINDNESS AT A SON'S DEATH

One way we build friendships is by those deeds which poet William Wordsworth called "Those little nameless unremembered acts of kindness and of love." One such act was performed for a man in a small village who had suffered the loss of his young son. After the funeral he visited the local undertaker and said, "I've come to square my account."

"You don't owe me a penny. You've paid your bill on the nail," the undertaker replied.

"But, I've had no bill for the funeral of my son."

The old undertaker answered, "If you had to bear the sorrow, surely I can bear the expense." -- Moody

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KINGDOM -- OF GOD, ETERNAL

1374 -- KHRUSHCHEV AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Nikita Khrushchev once boasted that he would exhibit the last Soviet Christian on television by 1965. Khrushchev has since gone to give account of himself to the Judge of all mankind, and his deadline for the extinction of Christianity in Russia has also passed. Throughout history, so-called big men and little men have strutted across the stages of life defying God. But as Psalm 145:13 promises, "Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations."

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KINGS -- DECREES OF

1375 -- THE WAVES OBEY ONLY THE KING OF KINGS!

In the years 1014-1035 there ruled over England a Danish king named Canute. King Canute tired of hearing his retainers flatter him with extravagant praises of his greatness, power and invincibility. He ordered his chair to be set down on the seashore, where he commanded the waves not to come in and wet him. No matter how forcefully he ordered the tide not to come in, however, his order was not obeyed. Soon the waves lapped around his chair. One historian tells us that, therefore, he never wore his crown again, but hung it on a statue of the crucified Christ.

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KNOWING -- CHRIST

1376 -- BEYOND KNOWING THE BIBLE, WE SHOULD KNOW CHRIST

Some years ago at a drawing-room function, one of England's leading actors was asked to recite for the pleasure of his fellow guests. He consented and asked if there was anything special that his audience would like to hear. After a moment's pause, an old clergyman present said: "Could you, sir, recite to us the Twenty-third Psalm?" A strange look passed over the actor's face; he paused for a moment, and then said: "I can, and I will, upon one condition; and that is that after I have recited it, you, my friend, will do the same." "I," said the clergyman, in surprise. "But I am not an elocutionist. However, you wish it, I will do so."

Impressively, the great actor began the psalm. His voice and his intonation were perfect. He held his audience spellbound; and as he finished, a great burst of applause broke from the guests.

Then, as it died away, the old clergyman arose and began the psalm. His voice was not remarkable; his intonation was not faultless. When he had finished, no sound of applause broke the silence, but there was not a dry eye in the room, and many heads were bowed.

Then the actor rose to his feet again. His voice shook as he laid his hand upon the shoulder of the old clergyman and said: "I reached your eyes and ears, my friends; he reached your hearts. The difference is just this: I know the Twenty-third Psalm, but he knows the Shepherd." -- The War Cry

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KNOWING -- DEMANDS DOING

1377 -- KNOWING IS NOT DOING

Through United Press comes the report that termites have eaten through a large stack of pamphlets entitled, Control of Termites, in the mailing room of the University of California at Berkeley. Maintenance men made the discovery. One would naturally expect that university buildings would be free of termites, because at such a center of higher education so much is known of termites and the destruction they cause. But it is one thing to have in a pamphlet the information concerning the control of termites, and quite another thing to make a practical application of that information! Speaking to His disciples on one occasion, the Lord Jesus said regarding the things He taught them, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." -- Selected

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KNOWING -- GOD'S WORD

1378 -- HOW HE KNEW THE HIDDEN TRUTHS OF GOD'S WORD

"Of a child thou hast known the holy scriptures" Scriptural knowledge is gained by more than simply reading the Bible. It is gained by that which is even beyond intense, human study of the Bible.

They asked of Christ: "How knoweth this man letters, never having learned?" They were amazed that He knew the Scriptures without having studied them at the feet of men. Many of God's humble, sanctified saints have a depth of insight into the holy Scriptures which far exceeds the teachings of some seminary professors. "From whence cometh this wisdom?" Consider the following:

Dr. Harry A. Ironside told of visiting a godly Irishman, Andrew Frazer, who had come to southern California to recover from a serious illness. Though quite weak, he opened his worn Bible and began expounding the deep truths of God in a way that Ironside had never heard before. Ironside was so moved by Frazer's words that he asked him, "Where did you get these things? Could you tell me where I could find a book that would open them up to me? Did you learn them in some seminary or college?" The sickly man gave an answer that Ironside said he would never forget. "My dear young man, I learned these things on my knees on the mud floor of a little sod cottage in the north of Ireland. There with my open Bible before me I used to kneel for hours at a time and ask the Spirit of God to reveal Christ to my soul and to open the Word to my heart. He taught me more on my knees on that mud floor than I ever could have learned in all the seminaries or colleges in the world."

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KNOWLEDGE -- DIVINE

1379 -- IGNORANT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

Rossini was once presented with a watch by the King of France -- of which he was justly proud. Several years after, showing it to a friend, he was told that though he had possessed it so long, he did not know its real value. "Impossible," said Rossini, whereupon the friend, taking the watch, touched a secret spring, at which an inner case flew open, disclosing a beautiful miniature painting of Rossini himself. This is characteristic of a certain type of modern Christianity. It values its ethics and is acquainted with and appreciates much of its teaching, but it has not discovered the inner secret which gives it its supreme value. The portrait of Christ is still hidden. When the secret spring is touched and the Face of Christ is recognized, the whole attitude of mind and theory of values is changed. It is characteristic also of much avowed discipleship. "Have I been so long a time with you, and hast thou not known Me, Philip?" said Christ to one who called himself a disciple and an intimate.

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KNOWLEDGE -- DIVINE

1380 -- UNDERESTIMATING CHRIST'S KNOWLEDGE

A South American company purchased a fine printing press from a firm in the United States. After it had been shipped and completely assembled, the workmen could not get it to operate properly. The most knowledgeable personnel tried to adjust it, but to no avail. The company finally sent a wire to the manufacturer, asking for a representative to come and fix it. Sensing the urgency of the request, the U. S. firm sent the designer of the press. When he arrived on the scene, the company officials were skeptical because he was young. After discussing the situation, they sent this cable to the manufacturer: "Your man is too young. Send a more experienced person." The reply came back, "He made the machine. Let him fix it." We are in a similar situation. Only our creator can fix us.

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KNOWLEDGE -- PURSUIT OF COMMANDED

1381 -- HIS STUDENTS COULD DRINK FROM A RUNNING STREAM

Howard Hendricks shares this insight about the value of learning: When I was a college student -- I worked in the college dining hall, and on my way to work at 5:30 every morning I walked past the home of one of my professors. Through a window I could see the light on at his desk, morning after morning. At night I stayed late at the library to take advantage of evening study hours, and returning home at 10:30 or 11 o'clock I would again see his desk light on. He was always pouring over his books. One day he invited me home for lunch, and after the meal I said to him, "Would you mind if I asked you a question?" "Of course not." "What keeps you studying?"

You never seem to stop." His answer, "Son, I would rather have my students drink from a running stream than a stagnant pool."

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KNOWLEDGE -- PURSUIT OF COMMANDED

1382 -- ONE YEAR'S KNOWLEDGE REPEATED 25 TIMES

In his book "Folk Psalms of Faith," Ray Stedman tells a story of a woman who had been a school teacher for 25 years. When she heard about a job that would mean a promotion, she applied for the position. However, someone who had been teaching for only one year was hired instead. She went to the principal and asked why. The principal responded, "I'm sorry, but you haven't had 25 years of experience as you claim; you've had only one year's experience 25 times." During that whole time the teacher had not improved.

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KNOWLEDGE -- SPIRITUAL

1383 -- ONE THING TO KNOW

In some meetings of the Salvation Army in Birmingham England one of the worst men in that city was converted. It was not long before some of his evil associates began to make fun of him, and such a conversation as the following ensued: "You say you are a Christian; who was the father of Jesus Christ?" "I don't know." "Who was his mother?" "I don't know." "When did he live?" "I don't know." "How old was he when he died?" "I don't know." "How did he die?" "I don't know." "Well, you are a pretty Christian; you don't know who was the father of Jesus, or who was his mother or when he lived or when he died or how he died; what do you know?" Then the rough but genuine Christian man lifted his head, and looking those who were taunting him in the face replied, "I know that he saved me." -- R. W. Dale

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KNOWLEDGE -- SPIRITUAL

1384 -- WHERE HE LEARNED MOST

The Pilgrim reports Harry A. Ironside as a young preacher visiting the aged Alexander Fraser and listening enthralled as one truth after another from God's Word was opened up by Mr. Fraser until he could restrain himself no more and cried out, "Where did you learn these things?" "On my knees on the mud floor of a little sod cottage in the north of Ireland" replied Mr. Fraser. "There with my Bible open before me I used to kneel for hours at a time and ask the Spirit of God to reveal Christ to my soul and to open the Word to my heart. He taught me more on my knees on that mud floor than I could ever have learned in all the colleges and seminaries in the world" -- Christian Digest

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KNOWLEDGE -- VANITY OF HUMAN

1385 -- LIKE A POCKETWATCH

"Never seem more learned than the people you are with. Wear your learning like a pocketwatch and keep it hidden. Do not pull it out to count the hours, but give the time when you are asked." -- Chesterfield

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THE END